

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SHANE TEPPER, SURFINA ADAMS,)
MICHAEL MENSACK and DANIEL DISE,)
individually and on behalf of all others)
similarly situated,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

OMNICOM GROUP, INC., THE BOARD)
OF DIRECTORS OF OMNICOM GROUP,)
INC., OMNICOM GROUP INC.)
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, and)
JOHN DOES 1-30.)

Defendants.)

CIVIL ACTION NO.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Shane Tepper, Surfina Adams, Michael Mensack and Daniel Dise (“Plaintiffs”), by and through their attorneys, on behalf of the Omnicom Group Retirement Savings Plan (the “Plan”),¹ themselves and all others similarly situated, state and allege as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a class action brought pursuant to §§ 409 and 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109 and 1132, against the Plan’s fiduciaries, which include Omnicom Group, Inc. (“Omnicom” or the “Company”), the Board of Directors of Omnicom Group, Inc. (“Board”), and its members during the Class Period

¹ The Plan is a legal entity that can sue and be sued. ERISA § 502(d)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(d)(1). However, in a breach of fiduciary duty action such as this, the Plan is not a party. Rather, pursuant to ERISA § 409, and the law interpreting it, the relief requested in this action is for the benefit of the Plan and its participants.

and the Omnicom Group, Inc., Administrative Committee (“Administrative Committee” or “Committee”) and its members during the Class Period for breaches of their fiduciary duties.

2. Defined contribution retirement plans, like the Plan, confer tax benefits on participating employees to incentivize saving for retirement. As of the end of 2015, Americans had approximately \$6.7 trillion in assets invested in defined contribution plans. *See* INVESTMENT COMPANY INSTITUTE, *Retirement Assets Total \$24.0 Trillion in Fourth Quarter 2015* (Mar. 24, 2016), available at https://www.ici.org/research/stats/retirement/ret_15_q4; PLAN SPONSOR, *2015 Recordkeeping Survey* (June 2015), available at <http://www.plansponsor.com/2015-Recordkeeping-Survey/>.

3. In a defined contribution plan, participants’ benefits “are limited to the value of their own investment accounts, which is determined by the market performance of employee and employer contributions, less expenses.” *Tibble v. Edison Int’l*, 135 S. Ct. 1823, 1826 (2015) (“*Tibble I*”). Thus, the employer has no incentive to keep costs low or to closely monitor the Plan to ensure every investment remains prudent, because all risks related to high fees and poorly-performing investments are borne by the participants.

4. To safeguard Plan participants and beneficiaries, ERISA imposes strict fiduciary duties of loyalty and prudence upon employers and other plan fiduciaries. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1). These twin fiduciary duties are “the highest known to the law.” *Donovan v. Bierwirth*, 680 F. 2d 263, 272 n.8 (2d Cir. 1982); *see also Severstal Wheeling v. WPN Corporation*, 659 Fed.Appx. 24 (2nd Cir. 2016). Fiduciaries must act “solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries,” 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(A), with the “care, skill, prudence, and diligence” that would be expected in managing a plan of similar scope. 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1)(B).

5. The Plan has at all times, during the Class Period maintained over 2.4 billion dollars in assets (including having 2.7 billion dollars in assets in 2018), qualifying it as a large plan in the defined contribution plan marketplace, and among the largest plans in the United States. These assets are entrusted to the care of the Plan's fiduciaries. As a large plan, the Plan had substantial bargaining power regarding the fees and expenses that were charged against participants' investments. Defendants, however, did not try to reduce the Plan's expenses or exercise appropriate judgment to scrutinize each investment option that was offered in the Plan to ensure it was prudent.

6. Plaintiffs allege that during the putative Class Period (May 29, 2014 through the date of judgment) Defendants, as "fiduciaries" of the Plan as that term is defined under ERISA § 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), breached the duties they owed to the Plan, to Plaintiffs, and to the other participants of the Plan by, *inter alia*, (1) failing to objectively and adequately review the Plan's investment portfolio with due care to ensure that each investment option was prudent, in terms of cost; and (2) maintaining certain funds in the Plan despite the availability of identical or materially similar investment options with lower costs and/or better performance histories.

7. To make matters worse, Defendants failed to consider lower cost collective trusts that were available to the Plan as alternatives to certain mutual funds in the Plan.

8. It appears that in 2019, *five years* into the Class Period, wholesale changes were made to the Plan wherein certain Plan investment options, some of which are the subject of this lawsuit, were converted to lower cost investments.

9. These changes were far too little and too late as the damages suffered by Plan participants to that point had already been baked in. There is no reason not to have implemented these changes by the start of the Class Period, when the majority of lower-cost investments were

available. Moreover, these changes may not have cured the Company's fiduciary breaches because the circumstances under which changes were made have not been disclosed to Plaintiffs.

10. Defendants' mismanagement of the Plan, to the detriment of participants and beneficiaries, constitutes a breach of the fiduciary duties of prudence and loyalty, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 1104. Their actions were contrary to the actions of a reasonable fiduciary and cost the Plan and its participants millions of dollars.

11. Based on this conduct, Plaintiffs assert claims against Defendants for breach of the fiduciary duties of loyalty and prudence (Count One) and failure to monitor fiduciaries (Count Two).

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because it is a civil action arising under the laws of the United States, and pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1332(e)(1), which provides for federal jurisdiction over actions brought under Title I of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, *et seq.*

13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they are headquartered and transact business in this District, reside in this District, and/or have significant contacts with this District, and because ERISA provides for nationwide service of process.

14. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to ERISA § 502(e)(2), 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2), because some or all of the violations of ERISA occurred in this District and Defendants reside and may be found in this District. Venue is also proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants do business in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted herein occurred within this District.

15. Venue is proper in the Manhattan division of this Court because pursuant to Rule 18 for the Division of Business, the claim arose in whole or in part in Manhattan and the Defendants reside in Manhattan. *See*, Rule 18 for the Division of Business Among District Judges – Southern District.

III. PARTIES

Plaintiffs

16. Plaintiff Shane Tepper (“Tepper”) resides in San Francisco, California. During his employment, Plaintiff Tepper participated in the Plan, investing in the options offered by the Plan and which are the subject of this lawsuit.

17. Plaintiff Surfina Adams (“Adams”) resides in Astoria, New York. During her employment, Plaintiff Adams participated in the Plan, investing in the options offered by the Plan and which are the subject of this lawsuit.

18. Plaintiff Michael Mensack (“Mensack”) resides in Kernersville, North Carolina. During his employment, Plaintiff Mensack participated in the Plan, investing in the options offered by the Plan and which are the subject of this lawsuit.

19. Plaintiff Daniel Dise (“Dise”) resides in Van Nuys, California. During his employment, Plaintiff Dise participated in the Plan, investing in the options offered by the Plan and which are the subject of this lawsuit.

20. Each Plaintiff has standing to bring this action on behalf of the Plan because each of them participated in the Plan and were injured by Defendants’ unlawful conduct. Plaintiffs are entitled to receive benefits in the amount of the difference between the value of their accounts currently, or as of the time their accounts were distributed, and what their accounts are or would have been worth, but for Defendants’ breaches of fiduciary duty as described herein.

21. Plaintiffs did not have knowledge of all material facts (including, among other things, the investment alternatives that are comparable to the investments offered within the Plan, comparisons of the costs and investment performance of Plan investments versus available alternatives within similarly-sized plans, total cost comparisons to similarly-sized plans, information regarding other available share classes, and information regarding the availability and pricing of collective trusts) necessary to understand that Defendants breached their fiduciary duties and engaged in other unlawful conduct in violation of ERISA until shortly before this suit was filed. Further, Plaintiffs did not have and do not have actual knowledge of the specifics of Defendants' decision-making process with respect to the Plan, including Defendants' processes (and execution of such) for selecting, monitoring, and removing Plan investments, because this information is solely within the possession of Defendants prior to discovery.² Moreover, having never managed a large 401(k) plan such as the Plan, Plaintiffs lacked actual knowledge of reasonable fee levels and prudent alternatives available to such plans. For purposes of this Complaint, Plaintiffs have drawn reasonable inferences regarding these processes based upon (among other things) the facts set forth herein.

Defendants

Company Defendant

22. Omnicom Group, Inc., is the Plan sponsor. *See* 2018 Form 5500 at 1. Its corporate headquarters is located at 437 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Omnicom describes itself

² *See Braden v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 588 F.3d 585, 598 (8th Cir. 2009) ("If Plaintiffs cannot state a claim without pleading facts which tend systematically to be in the sole possession of defendants, the remedial scheme of [ERISA] will fail, and the crucial rights secured by ERISA will suffer.").

as “an inter-connected global network of leading marketing communications companies.”³ Omnicom has “over 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries.”⁴ At December 31, 2019, Omnicom “employed approximately 70,000 people worldwide.”⁵ In 2019, Omnicom realized more than 1.3 billion in net revenue. *See*, Omnicom’s December 31, 2019 Annual Report at 9.

23. The Company is a fiduciary of the Plan, within the meaning of ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A) because, *inter alia*, Omnicom appointed other Plan fiduciaries through the Board (see below): “The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to appoint and remove the Trustee and the Administrative Committee....” Omnicom Group Retirement Savings Plan Document, Second Restatement, Effective January 1, 2015 (“2015 Plan Doc.”) at 70. Under ERISA, fiduciaries with the power to appoint have the concomitant fiduciary duty to monitor and supervise their appointees.

24. Additionally, at all times, Omnicom acted through its officers to perform Plan-related fiduciary functions. For example, the Administrative Committee is tasked with, among other things, acting “on behalf of the Company in the management and control of the Plan assets and to establish and carry out a funding policy consistent with the Plan objectives and with the requirements of applicable law.” 2015 Plan Doc. at 75.

25. Lastly, Omnicom made discretionary decisions to make matching and discretionary contributions (explained below) to Plan participants. 2015 Plan Doc. at 25.

³ <https://www.omnicomgroup.com/about/>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

Board Defendants

26. The Company acted through the Board to perform the Company's Plan-related fiduciary functions. The Board delegated its authority under the Plan to the Administrative Committee. "The Administrative Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall have the sole responsibility for actual administration of the Plan, as delegated by the Board of Directors." 2015 Plan Doc. at 70. Further, "[t]he Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to appoint and remove the Trustee and the Administrative Committee" *Id.*

27. Accordingly, the Board had the fiduciary duty to monitor and supervise the Committee while it performed its role as the fiduciary responsible for selection and monitoring of the Plan's investments.

28. Accordingly, each member of the Board during the putative Class Period (referred to herein as John Does 1-10) is/was a fiduciary of the Plan, within the meaning of ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), during the Class Period, because each exercised discretionary authority to appoint and/or monitor the Committee, which had control over Plan management and/or authority or control over management or disposition of Plan assets.

29. Members of the Board of Directors for Omnicom during the Class Period are collectively referred to herein as the "Board Defendants."

Committee Defendants

30. The Board delegated its authority under the Plan to the Administrative Committee. "The Administrative Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall have the sole responsibility for actual administration of the Plan, as delegated by the Board of Directors." 2015 Plan Doc. at 70.

31. The 2015 Plan Document further provides that “[t]he Administrative Committee shall direct the Trustee as to the investment of the assets in the Trust Fund in accordance with the terms of the Plan and Trust.” *Id.*

32. Under the Trust Agreement which Omnicom entered into with the Fidelity Management Trust Company, the Committee is the Named Fiduciary. Trust Agreement dated July 2, 2001 at 1 (“Trust Agreement”). Under the Trust Agreement, the Administrative Committee is also “the administrator of the Plan (within the meaning of section 3(16)(A) of ERISA);” *Id.*, *see also*, 2018 5500 at 2.

33. The Committee is tasked with monitoring the prudence of the Plan investments. Trust Agreement at 1. The 2015 Plan Document provides that the Administrative Committee is tasked with, among other things, acting “on behalf of the Company in the management and control of the Plan assets and to establish and carry out a funding policy consistent with the Plan objectives and with the requirements of applicable law.” 2015 Plan Doc. at 75. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Committee “shall direct the Trustee as to the investment options in which the Trust shall be invested ... and the investment options in which Participants may invest ...” Trust Agreement at 5. Further, the Committee “may change, add or subtract from the investment options....” *Id.*

34. The Committee and each of its members were fiduciaries of the Plan during the Class Period, within the meaning of ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), because each exercised discretionary authority over management or disposition of Plan assets.

35. The Committee and members of the Committee during the Class Period (referred to herein as John Does 11-20), are collectively referred to herein as the “Committee Defendants.”

Additional John Doe Defendants

36. To the extent that there are additional officers and employees of Omnicom who are/were fiduciaries of the Plan during the Class Period, or other individuals who were hired as investment managers for the Plan during the Class Period, the identities of whom are currently unknown to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs reserve the right, once their identities are ascertained, to seek leave to join them to the instant action. Thus, without limitation, unknown “John Doe” Defendants 21-30 include, but are not limited to, Omnicom officers and employees who are/were fiduciaries of the Plan within the meaning of ERISA Section 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), during the Class Period.

IV. THE PLAN

37. The Plan was “established effective January 1, 1988 for the benefit of Omnicom Group, Inc.,...” and was restated effective January 1, 1990. 2015 Plan Doc. at 1.

38. The Plan is a “defined contribution” or “individual account” plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(34), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(34), in that the Plan provides for individual accounts for each participant and for benefits based solely upon the amount contributed to those accounts, and any income, expense, gains and losses, and any forfeitures of accounts of the participants which may be allocated to such participant’s account. 2015 Plan Doc at 37. The 2015 Plan Document provides: “[t]he Plan is intended to be the primary tax-qualified defined contribution plan covering Omnicom Group and its affiliates.” 2015 Plan Doc. at 2. Consequently, retirement benefits provided by the Plan are based solely on the amounts allocated to each individual’s account.

Eligibility

39. As detailed in the Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants for December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (“2018 Auditor Report”): “[f]or the 401(k) and matching contribution features of the Plan, eligible employees of participating companies can enroll in the Plan as soon as administratively practicable following employment.” 2018 Auditor Report at 6. The 2018 Auditor Report further provides that: “[f]or the profit sharing feature of the Plan, eligible employees of participating companies are generally eligible twelve months after their date of hire and are enrolled in the Plan on the first day of the following calendar quarter.” *Id.*

Contributions and Vesting

40. There are several types of contributions that can be added to a participant’s account: an employee salary deferral contribution, an employer matching contribution, and an employer profit sharing contribution. 2018 Auditor Report at 4. Participants can also roll over amounts from other qualified benefit or defined contribution plans. *Id.*

41. As described in the 2018 Auditor Report: “[e]ach year, participants may contribute from 1% to 70% of their eligible pre-tax compensation, up to the maximum allowed under the Code.” *Id.*

42. Omnicom made discretionary decisions about the matching and discretionary contributions to Plan participants. 2015 Plan Doc. at 25. As stated in the 2015 Plan Document: “the Company ... in its sole discretion, may make discretionary Matching Contributions to the Plan on behalf of each Participant...” *Id.* Further, “[p]articipants are generally eligible to receive Employer Contributions, if any, if they are active employees on the last day of the Plan year and are credited with at least 1,000 hours of service during the Plan year.” 2018 Auditor Report at 6.

43. Generally, all employees will be fully vested in both profit sharing and employer matching contributions after no more than five years of participation. 2018 Auditor Report at 7. In some cases, based on the vesting schedules found in the 2015 Plan Document, an employee may be fully vested after only 3 years. 2015 Plan Doc. at 44.

44. Like other companies that sponsor 401(k) plans for their employees, Omnicom enjoys both direct and indirect benefits by providing matching contributions to Plan participants. Employers are generally permitted to take tax deductions for their contributions to 401(k) plans at the time when the contributions are made. *See generally* <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-sponsor/401k-plan-overview>.

45. Omnicom also benefits in other ways from the Plan's matching program. It is well-known that "[m]any employers match their employees' contributions to the 401(k) plan in order to help attract and retain talent at their company. By hiring and retaining employees with a high-caliber of talent, [a company] may save money on training and attrition costs associated with unhappy or lower-performing workers." *See*, <https://www.paychex.com/articles/employee-benefits/employer-matching-401k-benefits>.

46. Given the size of the Plan, Omnicom likely enjoyed a significant tax and cost savings from offering a match.

The Plan's Investments

47. Several investments were available to Plan participants for investment each year during the putative Class Period, including several Fidelity target date funds. As noted above, the Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance. For 2018, the Plan offered 27 investment options (not including the

Company stock fund), which includes 22 mutual funds, 4 collective trusts and 1 money market fund.

48. The Plan's assets under management for all funds as of the end of 2018 was \$2,777,127,065. 2018 Auditor Report at 5. From 2014 to 2017 the Plan's assets under management ranged from \$2.4 billion to \$3.0 billion.

Plan Expenses

49. "Costs and expenses of administering the Plan, or Permitted Expenses, are paid by the Plan ..." 2018 Auditor Report at 8.

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

50. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of themselves and the following proposed class ("Class"):⁶

All persons, except Defendants and their immediate family members, who were participants in or beneficiaries of the Plan, at any time between May 29, 2014 through the date of judgment (the "Class Period").

51. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. The 2018 Form 5500 filed with the Dept. of Labor lists 36,807 Plan "participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year." 2018 Form 5500 at 2.

52. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class. Like other Class members, Plaintiffs participated in the Plan and have suffered injuries as a result of Defendants' mismanagement of the Plan. Defendants treated Plaintiffs consistently with other Class members and managed the Plan as a single entity. Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of all

⁶ Plaintiffs reserve the right to propose other or additional classes or subclasses in their motion for class certification or subsequent pleadings in this action.

Class members arise out of the same conduct, policies, and practices of Defendants as alleged herein, and all members of the Class have been similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct.

53. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class, and these questions predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. Common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to:

- A. Whether Defendants are/were fiduciaries of the Plan;
- B. Whether Defendants breached their fiduciary duties of loyalty and prudence by engaging in the conduct described herein;
- C. Whether the Company and Board Defendants failed to adequately monitor the Committee and other fiduciaries to ensure the Plan was being managed in compliance with ERISA;
- D. The proper form of equitable and injunctive relief; and
- E. The proper measure of monetary relief.

54. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the Class, and have retained counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of ERISA class action litigation. Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to those of other members of the Class. Plaintiffs are committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and anticipate no difficulty in the management of this litigation as a class action.

55. This action may be properly certified under Rule 23(b)(1). Class action status in this action is warranted under Rule 23(b)(1)(A) because prosecution of separate actions by the members of the Class would create a risk of establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants. Class action status is also warranted under Rule 23(b)(1)(B) because prosecution of

separate actions by the members of the Class would create a risk of adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to this action, or that would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

56. In the alternative, certification under Rule 23(b)(2) is warranted because the Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

VI. DEFENDANTS' FIDUCIARY STATUS AND OVERVIEW OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

57. ERISA requires every plan to provide for one or more named fiduciaries who will have “authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the plan.” ERISA § 402(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1102(a)(1).

58. ERISA treats fiduciaries not only persons explicitly named as fiduciaries under Section 402(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1102(a)(1), but also any other persons who in fact perform fiduciary functions. Thus, a person is a fiduciary to the extent “(i) he exercises any discretionary authority or discretionary control respecting management of such plan or exercises any authority or control respecting management or disposition of its assets, (ii) he renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation, direct or indirect, with respect to any moneys or other property of such plan, or has any authority or responsibility to do so, or (iii) he has any discretionary authority or discretionary responsibility in the administration of such plan.” ERISA § 3(21)(A)(i), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A)(i).

59. As described in the “Parties” section above, Defendants were fiduciaries of the Plan because:

- (a) they were so named; and/or
- (b) they exercised authority or control respecting management or disposition of the Plan’s assets; and/or
- (c) they exercised discretionary authority or discretionary control respecting management of the Plan; and/or
- (d) they had discretionary authority or discretionary responsibility in the administration of the Plan.

60. As fiduciaries, Defendants are/were required by ERISA Section 404(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1), to manage and administer the Plan, and the Plan’s investments, solely in the interest of the Plan’s participants and beneficiaries and with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims. These twin duties are referred to as the duties of loyalty and prudence and are “the highest known to the law.” *Donovan*, 680 F. 2d at 272 n.8; *see also Severstal Wheeling*, 659 Fed.Appx. 24.

61. The duty of loyalty requires fiduciaries to act with an “eye single” to the interests of plan participants. *Pegram v. Herdrich*, 530 U.S. 211, 235 (2000). “Perhaps the most fundamental duty of a [fiduciary] is that he [or she] must display . . . complete loyalty to the interests of the beneficiary and must exclude all selfish interest and all consideration of the interests of third persons.” *Id.*, at 224 (quotation marks and citations omitted). Thus, “in deciding whether and to what extent to invest in a particular investment, a fiduciary must ordinarily consider *only* factors relating to the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries A decision to make an

investment may not be influenced by [other] factors unless the investment, when judged *solely* on the basis of its economic value to the plan, would be equal or superior to alternative investments available to the plan.” Dep’t of Labor ERISA Adv. Op. 88-16A, 1988 WL 222716, at *3 (Dec. 19, 1988) (emphasis added).

62. In effect, the duty of loyalty includes a mandate that the fiduciary display complete loyalty to the beneficiaries and set aside the consideration of third persons.

63. ERISA also “imposes a ‘prudent person’ standard by which to measure fiduciaries’ investment decisions and disposition of assets.” *Fifth Third Bancorp v. Dudenhoeffer*, 134 S. Ct. 2459, 2467 (2014) (quotation omitted). In addition to a duty to select prudent investments, under ERISA a fiduciary “has a continuing duty to monitor [plan] investments and remove imprudent ones” that exists “separate and apart from the [fiduciary’s] duty to exercise prudence in selecting investments.” *Tibble I*, 135 S. Ct. at 1828.

64. In addition, ERISA § 405(a), 29 U.S.C. § 1105(a) (entitled “Liability for breach by co-fiduciary”), further provides that:

[I]n addition to any liability which he may have under any other provision of this part, a fiduciary with respect to a plan shall be liable for a breach of fiduciary responsibility of another fiduciary with respect to the same plan in the following circumstances: (A) if he participates knowingly in, or knowingly undertakes to conceal, an act or omission of such other fiduciary, knowing such an act or omission is a breach; (B) if, by his failure to comply with section 404(a)(1), 29 U.S.C. §1104(a)(1), in the administration of his specific responsibilities which give rise to his status as a fiduciary, he has enabled such other fiduciary to commit a breach; or (C) if he has knowledge of a breach by such other fiduciary, unless he makes reasonable efforts under the circumstances to remedy the breach.

65. During the Class Period, Defendants did not act in the best interests of the Plan participants. Investments chosen for a plan should not favor the fund provider over the plan’s

participants. Yet here, to the detriment of the Plan and its participants and beneficiaries, the Plan's fiduciaries included and retained in the Plan many mutual fund investments that were more expensive than necessary and otherwise were not justified on the basis of their economic value to the Plan.

66. Based on reasonable inferences from the facts set forth in this Complaint, during the Class Period Defendants failed to have a proper system of review in place to ensure that participants in the Plan were being charged appropriate and reasonable fees for the Plan's investment options. Additionally, Defendants failed to leverage the size of the Plan to negotiate for (1) lower expense ratios for certain investment options maintained and/or added to the Plan during the Class Period and (2) a prudent payment arrangement with regard to the Plan's recordkeeping and administrative fees.

67. As discussed below, Defendants breached fiduciary duties to the Plan and its participants and beneficiaries and are liable for their breaches and the breaches of their co-fiduciaries under 29 U.S.C. §§ 1104(a)(1) and 1105(a).

VII. SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS

A. Improper Management of an Employee Retirement Plan Can Cost the Plan's Participants Millions in Savings

68. Under 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a)(1), a plan fiduciary must provide diversified investment options for a defined-contribution plan while also giving substantial consideration to the cost of those options. "Wasting beneficiaries' money is imprudent. In devising and implementing strategies for the investment and management of trust assets, trustees are obligated to minimize costs." Uniform Prudent Investor Act (the "UPIA"), § 7.

69. “The Restatement ... instructs that ‘cost-conscious management is fundamental to prudence in the investment function,’ and should be applied ‘not only in making investments but also in monitoring and reviewing investments.’” *Tibble v. Edison Int’l*, 843 F.3d 1187, 1197-98 (9th Cir. Dec. 30, 2016) (*en banc*) (quoting Restatement (Third) of Trusts, § 90, cmt. b) (“*Tibble II*”). See also U.S. Dep’t of Labor, *A Look at 401(k) Plan Fees*, (Aug. 2013), at 2, available at <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/publications/a-look-at-401k-plan-fees.pdf> (last visited February 21, 2020) (“You should be aware that your employer also has a specific obligation to consider the fees and expenses paid by your plan.”). As the Ninth Circuit described, additional fees of only 0.18% or 0.4% can have a large effect on a participant’s investment results over time because “[b]eneficiaries subject to higher fees ... lose not only money spent on higher fees, but also lost investment opportunity; that is, the money that the portion of their investment spent on unnecessary fees would have earned over time.” *Tibble II*, 843 F.3d at 1198 (“It is beyond dispute that the higher the fees charged to a beneficiary, the more the beneficiary’s investment shrinks.”).

70. Most participants in 401(k) plans expect that their 401(k) accounts will be their principal source of income after retirement. Although at all times 401(k) accounts are fully funded, that does not prevent plan participants from losing money on poor investment choices by plan sponsors and fiduciaries, whether due to poor performance, high fees, or both.

71. In fact, the Department of Labor has explicitly stated that employers are held to a “high standard of care and diligence” and must, among other duties, both “establish a prudent process for selecting investment options and service providers” and “monitor investment options and service providers once selected to see that they continue to be appropriate choices.” See “*A Look at 401(k) Plan Fees*,” *supra*, at 2.

72. The duty to evaluate and monitor fees and investment costs includes fees paid directly by plan participants to investment providers, usually in the form of an expense ratio or a percentage of assets under management within a particular investment. *See* Investment Company Institute (“ICI”), *The Economics of Providing 401(k) Plans: Services, Fees, and Expenses*, (July 2016), at 4. “Any costs not paid by the employer, which may include administrative, investment, legal, and compliance costs, effectively are paid by plan participants.” *Id.*, at 5.

73. Prudent and impartial plan sponsors thus should be monitoring both the performance and cost of the investments selected for their 401(k) plans, as well as investigating alternatives in the marketplace to ensure that well-performing, low cost investment options are being made available to plan participants.

B. Defendants Breached Their Fiduciary Duties in Failing to Investigate and Select Lower Cost Alternative Funds

74. Defendants’ breaches of their fiduciary duties, relating to their overall decision-making, resulted in the selection (and maintenance) of several investments in the Plan throughout the Class Period, including those identified below, that wasted the Plan and participants’ assets because of unnecessary costs.

75. The Supreme Court recently reaffirmed the ongoing fiduciary duty to monitor a plan’s investment options in *Tibble I*, 135 S. Ct. at 1823. In *Tibble I*, the Court held that “an ERISA fiduciary’s duty is derived from the common law of trusts,” and that “[u]nder trust law, a trustee has a continuing duty to monitor trust investments and remove imprudent ones.” *Id.*, at 1828. In so holding, the Supreme Court referenced with approval the UPIA, treatises, and seminal decisions confirming the duty.

76. Under trust law, one of the responsibilities of the Plan's fiduciaries is to "avoid unwarranted costs" by being aware of the "availability and continuing emergence" of alternative investments that may have "significantly different costs." Restatement (Third) of Trusts, ch. 17, intro. note (2007); *see also* Restatement (Third) of Trusts, § 90 cmt. B (2007) ("Cost-conscious management is fundamental to prudence in the investment function."). Adherence to these duties requires regular performance of an "adequate investigation" of existing investments in a plan to determine whether any of the plan's investments are "improvident," or if there is a "superior alternative investment" to any of the plan's holdings. *Pension Ben. Gaur. Corp. ex rel. St. Vincent Catholic Med. Ctrs. Ret. Plan v. Morgan Stanley Inv. Mgmt.*, 712 F.3d 705, 718-19 (2d Cir. 2013).

77. When large plans, particularly those with over a billion dollars in assets like the Plan here, have options which approach the retail cost of shares for individual investors or are simply more expensive than the average or median institutional shares for that type of investment, a careful review of the plan and each option is needed for the fiduciaries to fulfill their obligations to the plan participants.

78. The Plan has retained several actively-managed funds as Plan investment options despite the fact that these funds charged grossly excessive fees compared with comparable or superior alternatives, and despite ample evidence available to a reasonable fiduciary that these funds had become imprudent due to their higher costs relative to the same or similar investments available. This fiduciary failure decreased participant compounding returns and reduced the available amount participants will have at retirement.

79. During the Class Period, the Plan lost millions of dollars by offering investment options that had similar or identical characteristics to other lower-priced investment options.

80. The majority of funds in the Plan stayed relatively unchanged during the Class

Period. In 2018, a majority of the funds in the Plan, at least 16 out of the Plan's 27 funds (not including the Company stock fund) were much more expensive than comparable funds found in similarly-sized plans (plans having over a billion dollars in assets). The expense ratios for funds in the Plan in some cases were up to **233%** (in the case of the William Blair Small- mid Cap Growth C1 I fund) above the median expense ratios in the same category:⁷

Plan Fund	Expense Ratio⁸	Category	ICI Median Fee
Fidelity Contra Class K	0.73%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
TRowe Price Large Cap Value Inst	0.57%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
TRowe Price Large Cap Core Growth Inst	0.56%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
AB Discovery Value Fund C1Z	0.79%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
William Blair Small-Mid Cap Growth C1 I	1.10%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
Neuberger Berman Socially Responsive Fund Class R6	0.59%	Domestic Equity	0.33%
Fidelity Diversified International Class K	0.69%	International Equity	0.50%
Fidelity Freedom k 2020 Fund	0.53%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2025 Fund	0.56%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2030 Fund	0.60%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2035 Fund	0.63%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2040 Fund	0.65%	Target Date	0.47%

⁷ See BrightScope/ICI Defined Contribution Plan Profile: *A Close Look at 401(k) Plans, 2016* at 62 (June 2019) (hereafter, "ICI Study") available at https://www.ici.org/pdf/19_ppr_dcplan_profile_401k.pdf

⁸ The listed expense figures are taken from summary prospectuses published in 2020.

Fidelity Freedom k 2045 Fund	0.65%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2050 Fund	0.65%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2055 Fund	0.65%	Target Date	0.47%
Fidelity Freedom k 2060 Fund	0.65%	Target Date	0.47%

81. The above comparisons understate the excessiveness of fees in the Plan throughout the Class Period. That is because the ICI Median fee is based on a study conducted in 2016 when expense ratios would have been higher than today given the downward trend of expense ratios the last few years. Indeed, the ICI median expense ratio for target date funds for plans with over 1 billion dollars in assets was 0.56% using 2015 data compared with 0.47% in 2016. Accordingly, the median expense ratios in 2020 utilized by similar plans would be lower than indicated above, demonstrating a greater disparity between the 2020 expense ratios utilized in the above chart for the Plan's current funds and the median expense ratios in the same category.

82. Further, median-based comparisons also understate the excessiveness of the investment management fees of the Plan's funds because many prudent alternative funds were available that offered lower expenses than the median.

Failure to Investigate Availability of Lower Cost Collective Trusts

83. Many mutual funds offer multiple classes of shares in a single mutual fund that are targeted at different investors. Generally, more expensive share classes are targeted at smaller investors with less bargaining power, while lower cost shares are targeted at institutional investors with more assets, generally \$1 million or more, and therefore greater bargaining power. There is no difference between share classes other than cost—the funds hold identical investments and have the same manager.

84. Collective trusts (“CITs”) are akin to low-cost share classes because many if not most mutual fund strategies are available in a collective trust format, and the investments in the collective trusts are identical to those held by the mutual fund, except they cost less.

85. As noted *supra*, ERISA is derived from trust law. *Tibble I*, 135 S. Ct. at 1828. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has stated that where ERISA is silent, courts should seek guidance from trust law. *Varity Corp v. Howe*, 516 U.S. 489, 496-97 (1996). One such area is the selection of appropriate funds for a plan. Trust law states it depends on “the type of trustee and the nature of the breach involved, the availability of relevant data, and other facts and circumstances of the case.” Restatement (Third) of Trusts, § 100 cmt. b(1). To determine whether a fiduciary has selected appropriate funds for the trust, appropriate comparators may include “return rates of one or more **suitable common trust funds**, or suitable index mutual funds or market indexes (with such adjustments as may be appropriate).” *Id.* (emphasis added).

86. Plan fiduciaries such as Defendants here must be continually mindful of investment options to ensure they do not unduly risk plan participants’ savings and do not charge unreasonable fees. Some of the best investment vehicles for these goals are collective trusts, which pool plan participants’ investments further and provide lower fee alternatives to even institutional and 401(k) plan specific shares of mutual funds. Defendants knew this, or at least should have known this, because the Plan included collective trusts during the Class Period.

87. Collective trusts are administered by banks or trust companies, which assemble a mix of assets such as stocks, bonds and cash. Regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency rather than the Securities and Exchange Commission, collective trusts have simple disclosure requirements, and cannot advertise or issue formal prospectuses. As a result, their costs are much lower, with lower or no administrative costs, and lower or no marketing or advertising

costs. See Powell, Robert, “Not Your Normal Nest Egg,” The Wall Street Journal, March 2013, available at <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324296604578177291881550144>.

88. Due to their potential to reduce overall plan costs, collective trusts are becoming increasingly popular; *Use of CITs in DC Plans Booming* (discussing data showing that among both mid-size and large defined contribution plans, significantly more assets are held in collective trusts than in mutual funds).⁹

89. A clear indication of Defendants’ lack of a prudent investment evaluation process was their failure to identify and select available collective trusts. A prudent fiduciary conducting an impartial review of the Plan’s investments would have identified all funds that could be converted to collective trusts at the earliest opportunity. Here, the following funds in the Plan in 2018 were available as collective trusts in 2018 and most of the Class Period:

Fund in Plan	2020 Exp. Ratio	Collective Trust Version	Incep Date	2020 Exp. Ratio	% Fee Excess
Fidelity Contrafund Class K	0.73%	Fidelity Contrafund Commingled Pool	During CP	0.43%	70%

⁹ The criticisms that have been launched against collective trust vehicles in the past no longer apply. Collective trusts use a unitized structure and the units are valued daily; as a result, participants invested in collective trusts are able to track the daily performance of their investments online. *Use of CITs in DC Plans Booming*; Paula Aven Gladych, *CITs Gaining Ground in 401(k) Plans*, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT NEWS (Apr. 14, 2016), available at <http://www.benefitnews.com/news/cits-gaining-ground-in-401-k-plans> (hereinafter *CITs Gaining Ground*). Many if not most mutual fund strategies are available in collective trust format, and the investments in the collective trusts are identical to those held by the mutual funds. *Use of CITs in DC Plans Booming*; *CITs Gaining Ground*. And because collective trusts contract directly with the plan, and provide regular reports regarding costs and investment holdings, the plan has the same level of protection that the Investment Company Act provides to individual investors, thus eliminating the need for the protections of the Investment Company Act. Further, collective trusts are still subject to state and federal banking regulations that provide comparable protections. American Bankers Association, *ABA Primer on Bank Collective Funds*, June 2015, at 1, available at <https://www.aba.com/advocacy/policy-analysis/primer-bank-collective-investment-funds>.

Fund in Plan	2020 Exp. Ratio	Collective Trust Version	Incep Date	2020 Exp. Ratio	% Fee Excess
Fidelity Diversified International Class K	0.69%	Fidelity Diversified International Commingled Pool	Dec. 13 2013	0.58%	19%
William Blair Small-Mid Cap Growth International	1.10%	William Blair Small- Mid Cap Growth CIT	May 1 2012	0.85%	29%
Fidelity Freedom K 2005 Fund	0.42%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2005 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	31%
Fidelity Freedom K 2010 Fund	0.46%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2010 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	44%
Fidelity Freedom K 2015 Fund	0.49%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2015 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	53%
Fidelity Freedom K 2020 Fund	0.53%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2020 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	66%
Fidelity Freedom K 2025 Fund	0.56%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2025 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	75%
Fidelity Freedom K 2030 Fund	0.60%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2030 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	88%
Fidelity Freedom K 2035 Fund	0.63%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2035 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	97%
Fidelity Freedom K 2040 Fund	0.65%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2040 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	103%
Fidelity Freedom K 2045 Fund	0.65%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2045 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	103%
Fidelity Freedom K 2050 Fund	0.65%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2050 Q Fund	Oct. 31 2007	0.32%	103%

Fund in Plan	2020 Exp. Ratio	Collective Trust Version	Incep Date	2020 Exp. Ratio	% Fee Excess
Fidelity Freedom K 2055 Fund	0.65%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2055 Q Fund	July 12 2011	0.32%	103%
Fidelity Freedom K 2060 Fund	0.65%	FIAM Blend Target Date 2060 Q Fund	May 15 2015	0.32%	103%
Fidelity Freedom Income K	0.42%	FIAM Blend Target Date Fund Q	During CP	0.32%	31%

90. The above is for illustrative purposes only. During the Class Period, Defendants knew or should have known of the existence of these available collective trusts and therefore also should have immediately identified the prudence of transferring the Plan's funds into these alternative investments.

91. As noted above, minimum initial investment amounts are typically waived for institutional investors like retirement plans. *See, e.g., Davis et al. v. Washington Univ. et al.*, No. 18-3345, slip op. at 5 (8th Cir. May 22, 2020) ("minimum investment requirements are 'routinely waived' for individual investors in large retirement-savings plans"); *Sweda v. Univ. of Pennsylvania*, 923 F.3d 320, 329 (3d Cir. 2019) (citing *Tibble II*, 729 F.3d at 1137 n.24) (confirming that investment minimums are typically waived for large plans).

92. The following is a sampling of the assets under management during the Class Period:

Fund in Plan	2018 AUM	2017 AUM	2016 AUM	2015 AUM	2014 AUM
Fidelity Contrafund Class K	\$291,933,344	\$321,019,651	\$259,663,043	\$272,355,981	\$270,255,410

Fidelity Diversified International Class K	\$137,256,517	\$176,296,078	\$147,322,869	\$163,762,652	\$163,526,574
William Blair Small-Mid Cap Growth International	\$105,787,667	\$108,037,562	NA	NA	NA
Fidelity Freedom K 2005 Fund	\$2,164,787	\$2,194,971	\$1,825,680	\$2,015,000	\$2,769,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2010 Fund	\$8,593,944	\$9,468,183	\$7,687,467	\$6,579,000	\$8,531,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2015 Fund	\$13,659,547	\$15,317,300	\$13,603,056	\$13,689,000	\$15,325,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2020 Fund	\$53,258,220	\$59,318,161	\$47,462,610	\$44,355,000	\$43,050,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2025 Fund	\$73,477,397	\$85,373,961	\$60,861,328	\$55,321,000	\$52,424,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2030 Fund	\$105,080,516	\$113,306,476	\$83,266,043	\$75,815,000	\$71,173,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2035 Fund	\$134,312,538	\$146,135,021	\$107,751,890	\$91,570,000	\$84,127,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2040 Fund	\$149,972,142	\$164,319,305	\$120,435,106	\$105,747,000	\$97,416,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2045 Fund	\$131,279,554	\$138,395,340	\$99,717,689	\$77,942,000	\$67,076,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2050 Fund	\$125,657,009	\$126,057,428	\$88,726,725	\$67,026,000	\$56,136,000
Fidelity Freedom K 2055 Fund	\$57,626,815	\$47,408,147	\$24,882,543	\$12,146,000	\$7,259,000

Fidelity Freedom K 2060 Fund	\$12,492,144	\$7,287,103	\$2,227,637	\$410,000	NA
Fidelity Freedom Income K	\$10,295,673	\$11,820,881	\$11,155,047	\$10,847,077	\$11,417,505

93. At all times during the Class Period, the above funds had sufficient assets under management to qualify for conversion to collective trusts. Indeed, the Plan had other collective trusts in the Plan in 2018 with comparable assets under management: Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II (\$255m); State Street Global All Cap Equity Ex-U.S. Index Fund Class K (\$733,418); State Street Russell Small/Mid Cap Index Fund Class C (\$244,583); State Street U.S. Bond Index Fund Class C (\$592,905). Moreover, all of the collective trusts were available during the Class Period. A prudent fiduciary conducting an impartial review of the Plan's investments would have identified the cheaper available collective trusts and transferred the Plan's investments into the lower cost funds at the earliest opportunity.

94. There is no good-faith explanation for utilizing high-cost funds when lower-cost funds are available for the exact same investment. The Plan did not receive any additional services or benefits based on its use of more expensive funds; the only consequence was higher costs for Plan participants. Defendants failed in their fiduciary duties either because they did not negotiate aggressively enough with their service providers to obtain better pricing or they were asleep at the wheel and were not paying attention. Either reason is inexcusable.

95. Moreover, it is not prudent to select higher cost versions of the same fund even if a fiduciary believes fees charged to plan participants by the "retail" class investment were the same as the fees charged by the "institutional" class investment, net of the revenue sharing paid by the funds to defray the Plan's recordkeeping costs. *Tibble III*, 2017 WL 3523737, at * 8. Fiduciaries

should not “choose otherwise imprudent investments specifically to take advantage of revenue sharing.” *Id.*, at * 11. This basic tenet of good fiduciary practice resonates loudly in this case given the unreasonable recordkeeping and administrative costs arrangements put in place by Defendants.

96. The term “recordkeeping” is a catchall term for the suite of administrative services typically provided to a defined contribution plan by the plan’s “recordkeeper.” Recordkeeping expenses can either be paid directly from plan assets, or indirectly by the plan’s investments in a practice known as revenue sharing (or a combination of both or by a plan sponsor). Revenue sharing payments are payments made by investments within the plan, typically mutual funds, to the plan’s recordkeeper or to the plan directly, to compensate for recordkeeping and trustee services that the mutual fund company otherwise would have to provide.

97. Although utilizing a revenue sharing approach is not *per se* imprudent, unchecked, it is devastating for Plan participants. “At worst, revenue sharing is a way to hide fees. Nobody sees the money change hands, and very few understand what the total investment expense pays for. It’s a way to milk large sums of money out of large plans by charging a percentage-based fee that never goes down (when plans are ignored or taken advantage of). In some cases, employers and employees believe the plan is ‘free’ when it is in fact expensive.” Justin Pritchard, “Revenue Sharing and Invisible Fees” available at <http://www.cccandc.com/p/revenue-sharing-and-invisible-fees> (last visited March 19, 2020).

98. Here, throughout the majority of the Class Period, recordkeeping fees and other Plan administrative costs were paid through the following structure. The Trustee made annual revenue credit payments, from the funds it received through revenue sharing, to a Revenue Credit Account. Afterward, the “Administrator or Named Fiduciary may direct Trustee to use amounts

held in the Revenue Credit Account to reimburse the Sponsor for fees and expenses associated with services provided to the Plan, or pay such vendors, including Trustee or third parties, directly.” See Eleventh Amendment to Trust Agreement Between Fidelity Management Trust Company and Omnicom Group Inc. Further, “Amounts held in the Revenue Credit Account may be fully utilized each year and any unused amount may be carried over from year to year.” *Id.* Additionally, the Trustee made millions of dollars of payments over the years that were applied to reduce future permitted expenses.

99. Over the years, this arrangement of placing revenue sharing funds into a Revenue Account before disbursement to pay for Plan expenses deprived Plan participants use of their money and millions of dollars in lost opportunity costs. A more prudent arrangement in this case would have been to select available lower cost investment funds that used little to no revenue sharing and for the Defendants to negotiate and/or obtain reasonable direct compensation per participant recordkeeping/administration fees.

100. By failing to investigate the availability of certain collective trusts, Defendants caused the Plan to pay millions of dollars per year in unnecessary fees. Further, to the extent Defendants held revenue sharing amounts for a prolonged period of time and failed to remit any excess revenue sharing back to Plan participants, this was a further fiduciary breach that cost Plan participants millions of dollars during the Class Period.

Failure to Utilize Lower Cost Passively-Managed Funds

101. As noted *supra*, ERISA is derived from trust law. *Tibble I*, 135 S. Ct. at 1828. Accordingly, appropriate investments for a fiduciary to consider are “suitable index mutual funds or market indexes (with such adjustments as may be appropriate).” Restatement (Third) of Trusts, § 100 cmt. b(1).

102. While higher-cost mutual funds may outperform a less-expensive option, such as a passively-managed index fund, over the short term, they rarely do so over a longer term. *See* Jonnelle Marte, *Do Any Mutual Funds Ever Beat the Market? Hardly*, The Washington Post, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/get-there/wp/2015/03/17/do-any-mutual-funds-ever-beat-the-market-hardly/> (citing a study by S&P Dow Jones Indices which looked at 2,862 actively-managed mutual funds, focused on the top quartile in performance and found most did not replicate performance from year to year); *see also* *Index funds trounce actively managed funds: Study*, available at <http://www.cnbc.com/2015/06/26/index-funds-trounce-actively-managed-funds-study.html> (“long-term data suggests that actively-managed funds “lagged their passive counterparts across nearly all asset classes, especially over the 10-year period from 2004 to 2014.”)

103. Indeed, on average funds with high fees perform worse than less expensive funds, even on a pre-fee basis. Javier Gil-Bazo & Pablo Ruiz-Verdu, *When Cheaper is Better: Fee Determination in the Market for Equity Mutual Funds*, 67 J. Econ. Behav. & Org. 871, 873 (2009) (hereinafter “*When Cheaper is Better*”); *see also* Jill E. Fisch, *Rethinking the Regulation of Securities Intermediaries*, 158 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1961, 1967-75 (2010) (summarizing numerous studies showing that “the most consistent predictor of a fund’s return to investors is the fund’s expense ratio”).

104. During the Class Period, Defendants failed to consider materially similar but cheaper alternatives to the Plan’s investment options. This failure is a further indication that Defendants lacked a prudent investment monitoring process.

105. The chart below demonstrates that the expense ratios of the Plan’s investment options were more expensive by multiples of comparable passively-managed alternative funds in

the same fund category. The chart below analyzes funds in the Plan in 2018 using 2020 expense ratios as a methodology to demonstrate the greater relative expense of the Plan's funds compared to their alternative fund counterparts.

Fund in Plan	Net Expense Ratio	Passive Alternative	Net Expense Ratio	Incep. Date	% Fee Excess
Fidelity Freedom K 2005 Fund	0.42%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2005 Investor Class	0.14%	Dec. 2 2009	200%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2005 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	425%
Fidelity Freedom K 2010 Fund	0.46%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2010 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	229%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2010 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	475%
Fidelity Freedom K 2015 Fund	0.49%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2015 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	250%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2015 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	513%
Fidelity Freedom K 2020 Fund	0.53%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2020 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	279%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2020 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	563%
Fidelity Freedom K 2025 Fund	0.56%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2025 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	300%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2025 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	600%
Fidelity Freedom K 2030 Fund	0.60%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2030 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	329%

Fund in Plan	Net Expense Ratio	Passive Alternative	Net Expense Ratio	Incep. Date	% Fee Excess
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2030 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	650%
Fidelity Freedom K 2035 Fund	0.63%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2035 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	350%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2035 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	688%
Fidelity Freedom K 2040 Fund	0.65%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2040 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	364%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2040 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	713%
Fidelity Freedom K 2045 Fund	0.65%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2045 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	364%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2045 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	713%
Fidelity Freedom K 2050 Fund	0.65%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2050 Investor Class	0.14%	Oct. 2 2009	364%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2050 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	713%
Fidelity Freedom K 2055 Fund	0.65%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2055 Investor Class	0.14%	June 1 2011	364%
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2055 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	713%
Fidelity Freedom K 2060 Fund	0.65%	Fidelity Freedom Index 2060 Investor Class	0.14%	Jan. 12 2014	364%

Fund in Plan	Net Expense Ratio	Passive Alternative	Net Expense Ratio	Incep. Date	% Fee Excess
		Fidelity Freedom Index 2060 Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	713%
Fidelity Freedom Income K	0.42%	Fidelity Freedom Index Fund Investor Class	0.12%		250%
		Fidelity Freedom Index Fund Inst. Premium Class	0.08%	June 24 2015	425%

106. The above alternative funds generally outperformed the Plan's funds in their 3 and 5 year average returns as of 2020. Moreover, these alternative investments had no material difference in risk/return profiles with the Plan's funds and there was a high correlation of the alternative funds' holdings with the Plan's funds holdings such that any difference was immaterial.

107. These results are not surprising given that in the long-term, actively managed funds do not outperform their passively-managed counterparts. Indeed, the majority of U.S. equity funds did not outperform their index counterparts in the five years ended June 30, 2019:¹⁰

Fund Category	Comparison Index	Percentage of Funds That Underperformed Their Benchmark 5 Yr (%)
Large-Cap	S&P 500	78.52
Mid-Cap	S&P MidCap 400	63.56
Small-Cap	S&P SmallCap 600	75.09
Multi-Cap	S&P Composite 1500	82.79
Domestic Equity	S&P Composite 1500	81.66

¹⁰ Source: <https://us.spindices.com/spiva/#/reports>

Large-Cap Value	S&P Value	84.74
Mid-Cap Value	S&P MidCap 400 Value	92.31
Small-Cap Value	S&P SmallCap 600 Value	90.57
Multi-Cap Value	S&P Composite 1500 Value	91.35

108. A prudent investigation would have revealed the existence of these lower-cost and better performing alternatives to the Plan's funds.

109. The above is for illustrative purposes only as the significant fee disparities detailed above existed for all years of the Class Period. The Plan expense ratios were multiples of what they should have been given the bargaining power available to the Plan fiduciaries.

C. Defendants Breached Their Duty of Loyalty to the Plan and Its Participants

110. The structure of this Plan is rife with potential conflicts of interest because Fidelity and its affiliates were placed in positions that allowed them to reap profits from the Plan at the expense of Plan participants. Here, the Plan's Trustee is Fidelity, and an affiliate of Fidelity performs the recordkeeping services for the Plan.

111. This conflict of interest is laid bare in this case where lower-cost Fidelity collective trusts and index funds – materially similar or identical to the Plan's other Fidelity funds (other than in price) – were available but not selected because the higher-cost funds returned more value to Fidelity.

112. There appears to be no reasonable justification for the millions of dollars collected from Plan participants that ended up in Fidelity's coffers.

113. The Company, and the fiduciaries to whom it delegated authority, breached their duty of undivided loyalty to Plan participants by failing to adequately supervise Fidelity and its

affiliates and ensure that the fees charged by Fidelity and its affiliates were reasonable and in the best interests of the Plan and its participants. Clearly, Defendants failed this aspect of their fiduciary duties.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Breaches of Fiduciary Duties of Loyalty and Prudence
(Asserted against the Committee Defendants)

114. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all prior allegations in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

115. At all relevant times, the Committee Defendants (“Prudence Defendants”) were fiduciaries of the Plan within the meaning of ERISA § 3(21)(A), 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A), in that they exercised discretionary authority or control over the administration and/or management of the Plan or disposition of the Plan’s assets.

116. As fiduciaries of the Plan, these Defendants were subject to the fiduciary duties imposed by ERISA § 404(a), 29 U.S.C. § 1104(a). These fiduciary duties included managing the assets of the Plan for the sole and exclusive benefit of Plan participants and beneficiaries, and acting with the care, skill, diligence, and prudence under the circumstances that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims.

117. The Prudence Defendants breached these fiduciary duties in multiple respects as discussed throughout this Complaint. They did not make decisions regarding the Plan’s investment lineup based solely on the merits of each investment and what was in the best interest of Plan participants. Instead, the Prudence Defendants selected and retained investment options in the Plan despite the high cost of the funds in relation to other comparable investments. The Prudence Defendants also failed to investigate the availability of lower-cost share classes of certain

mutual funds in the Plan. In addition, the Prudence Defendants failed to investigate certain collective trusts as alternatives to mutual funds, even though they generally provide the same investment management services at a lower cost. Likewise, the Prudence Defendants failed to monitor or control the grossly excessive compensation paid for recordkeeping services.

118. As a direct and proximate result of the breaches of fiduciary duties alleged herein, the Plan suffered millions of dollars of losses due to excessive costs and lower net investment returns. Had Defendants complied with their fiduciary obligations, the Plan would not have suffered these losses, and Plan participants would have had more money available to them for their retirement.

119. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), the Prudence Defendants are liable to restore to the Plan all losses caused by their breaches of fiduciary duties, and also must restore any profits resulting from such breaches. In addition, Plaintiffs are entitled to equitable relief and other appropriate relief for Defendants' breaches as set forth in their Prayer for Relief.

120. The Prudence Defendants knowingly participated in each breach of the other Defendants, knowing that such acts were a breach, enabled the other Defendants to commit breaches by failing to lawfully discharge such Defendant's own duties, and knew of the breaches by the other Defendants and failed to make any reasonable and timely effort under the circumstances to remedy the breaches. Accordingly, each Defendant is also liable for the breaches of their co-fiduciaries under 29 U.S.C. § 1105(a).

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Failure to Adequately Monitor Other Fiduciaries
(Asserted against Omnicom and the Board Defendants)

121. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate herein by reference all prior allegations in this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

122. Omnicom and the Board Defendants (the “Monitoring Defendants”) had the authority to appoint and remove members of the Committee and were aware that the Committee Defendants had critical responsibilities as fiduciaries of the Plan.

123. In light of this authority, the Monitoring Defendants had a duty to monitor the Committee Defendants to ensure that the Committee Defendants were adequately performing their fiduciary obligations, and to take prompt and effective action to protect the Plan in the event that the Committee Defendants were not fulfilling those duties.

124. The Monitoring Defendants also had a duty to ensure that the Committee Defendants possessed the needed qualifications and experience to carry out their duties (or used qualified advisors and service providers to fulfill their duties); had adequate financial resources and information; maintained adequate records of the information on which they based their decisions and analysis with respect to the Plan’s investments; and reported regularly to the Monitoring Defendants.

125. The Monitoring Defendants breached their fiduciary monitoring duties by, among other things:

- (a) Failing to monitor and evaluate the performance of the Committee Defendants or have a system in place for doing so, standing idly by as the Plan suffered significant losses in the form of unreasonably high expenses, choices of funds’ class of shares, and inefficient fund management styles that adversely affected the investment performance of the Funds’ and their participants’ assets as a result of the Committee Defendants’ imprudent actions and omissions;

- (b) Failing to monitor the processes by which Plan investments were evaluated, the Prudence Defendants' failure to investigate the availability of lower-cost share classes, and the Prudence Defendants' failure to investigate the availability of lower-cost collective trust vehicles; and
- (c) Failing to remove Committee members whose performance was inadequate in that they continued to maintain imprudent, excessively costly, and poorly performing investments within the Plan, and caused the Plan to pay excessive recordkeeping fees, all to the detriment of the Plan and Plan participants' retirement savings.

126. As a consequence of the foregoing breaches of the duty to monitor, the Plan suffered millions of dollars of losses. Had the Monitoring Defendants complied with their fiduciary obligations, the Plan would not have suffered these losses, and Plan participants would have had more money available to them for their retirement.

127. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 1109(a) and 1132(a)(2), the Monitoring Defendants are liable to restore to the Plan all losses caused by their failure to adequately monitor the Committee Defendants. In addition, Plaintiffs are entitled to equitable relief and other appropriate relief as set forth in their Prayer for Relief.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

128. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that judgment be entered against Defendants on all claims and requests that the Court awards the following relief:

A. A determination that this action may proceed as a class action under Rule 23(b)(1), or in the alternative Rule 23(b)(2), of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

B. Designation of Plaintiffs as Class Representatives and designation of Plaintiffs' counsel as Class Counsel;

C. A Declaration that the Defendants, and each of them, have breached their fiduciary duties under ERISA;

D. An Order compelling the Defendants to make good to the Plan all losses to the Plan resulting from Defendants' breaches of their fiduciary duties, including restoring to the Plan all losses resulting from imprudent investment of the Plan's assets, restoring to the Plan all profits the Defendants made through use of the Plan's assets, and restoring to the Plan all profits which the participants would have made if the Defendants had fulfilled their fiduciary obligations;

E. An order requiring the Company Defendant to disgorge all profits received from, or in respect of, the Plan, and/or equitable relief pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3) in the form of an accounting for profits, imposition of a constructive trust, or a surcharge against the Company Defendant as necessary to effectuate said relief, and to prevent the Company Defendant's unjust enrichment;

F. Actual damages in the amount of any losses the Plan suffered, to be allocated among the participants' individual accounts in proportion to the accounts' losses;

G. An order enjoining Defendants from any further violations of their ERISA fiduciary responsibilities, obligations, and duties;

H. Other equitable relief to redress Defendants' illegal practices and to enforce the provisions of ERISA as may be appropriate, including appointment of an independent fiduciary or fiduciaries to run the Plan and removal of Plan fiduciaries deemed to have breached their fiduciary duties;

I. An award of pre-judgment interest;

- J. An award of costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g);
- K. An award of attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g) and the common fund doctrine; and
- L. Such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

Dated: May 29, 2020

CAPOZZI ADLER, P.C.

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